

REMARKS

Claims 3 - 4 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ettl (US Patent 5,946,662). Applicants wish to point out that Ettl is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation of Armonk, NY, the same assignee as the present application.

In accordance with MPEP section 804.03 ¶8.28 item 7, "A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case". Applicants herebelow provide a properly executed terminal disclaimer to effectively remove Ettl as a reference in the present application.

Claims 2, 6 - 10, and 21 - 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ettl in view of Kalyan (US Patent 6,826,538). This rejection is moot in light of the removal of Ettl as a reference as noted above.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowance of all of the pending claims subject to the terminal disclaimer below.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that

allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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